

REMARKS

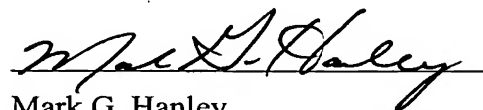
The applicant has carefully considered the official action dated July 21, 2005. In the official action, the examiner identified six patentably distinct inventions and required restriction of this application to one of those inventions. In particular, the examiner identified six groups of claims as follows: Group I (claims 1-16), Group II (claims 17-27), Group III (claims 28-36), Group IV (claims 37-42), Group V (claims 43-48), and Group VI (claims 49-54).

By way of this response, the applicant hereby elects claims 17-27 for prosecution. Further, the applicant has amended independent claim 17 and added claims 55-58 for consideration. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 17-27 and 55-58 are pending and at issue in this application.

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests an early favorable action on the merits. If there are any remaining matters that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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